

# Manipur CM briefs President on evolving situation in State

IMPHAL, Mar 25 (PTI)

MANIPUR Chief Minister Y Khemchand Singh on Wednesday said he met President Droupadi Murmu in New Delhi and briefed her on the evolving situation in the northeastern State.

Singh left for the national capital on Tuesday.

“Honoured to call on Hon’ble President Smt Droupadi Murmu Ji at @rashtrapatibhvn. Briefed Her Excellency on the evolving situation in Manipur and the coordinated response underway. Reiterated that unity, harmony, and peace remain our guiding principles,” the CM said in a post on X.

For the first time in nearly three years, after the ethnic conflict broke out in May 2023, the Manipur Government under

Singh recently held talks with representatives of the Kuki Zo Council in Guwahati, to explore the scope of peace and rebuilding trust between Meiteis and Kuki Zo communities in the state.

At least 260 people have been killed and thousands rendered homeless in the ethnic violence between Imphal Valley-based Meiteis and hills-based Kuki-Zo groups since May 2023.

In a post on Facebook later on Wednesday, Singh said key issues concerning peace, stability, and the restoration of normalcy in Manipur were discussed with the President.

“I had the privilege of apprising Her Excellency of the evolving situation in Manipur and the calibrated and coordinated response being undertaken to address the prevailing challenges,” he said.

# Four IITs, JNU, BITS Pilani among world's top 50

NEW DELHI, Mar 25 (PTI)

FOUR Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) and Birla Institute of Technology (BITS), Pilani are among the world's top 50 institutions for different subjects, according to the latest QS World University rankings announced on Wednesday.

London-based QS Quacquarelli Symonds, known for the university rankings, has published the 16th annual edition of the QS World University Rankings by Subject.

The rankings benchmark more than 21,000 academic programmes across 1,900 universities in over 100 countries, spanning 55 disciplines and five broad faculty areas.

According to the rankings, India records 27 top 50 positions across subjects and broad faculty areas - more than double the 12 recorded in 2024 - earned by 12 institutions.

Leading the individual charge is the Indian School of Mines University, Dhanbad, ranked 21st globally in Mineral and Mining Engineering, and IIM Ahmedabad, which ranks 21st in both Business and

## QS WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS BY SUBJECT



Management Studies and Marketing. The latter is a subject debut -- India has never before appeared in Marketing's global rankings.

Among the top 50 are IIT Bombay, Kharagpur and Madras; JNU and BITS Pilani.

"India's rise this year is not just about scale: it's about momentum in quality and global competitiveness. The breadth of improvement across engineering, technology and business signals a system that is accelerating with intent. The next phase will be defined by how effectively institutions deepen research strength, build

global partnerships, and sharpen their distinctiveness on the world stage," said Jessica Turner, CEO, QS Quacquarelli Symonds.

IIT Delhi has delivered the edition's most complete single-institution performance. It records six top-50 entries, leads India in four subjects - Chemical Engineering (48th, its first top-50 appearance), Electrical and Electronic Engineering (36th), Mechanical, Aeronautical and Manufacturing Engineering (44th, best in over a decade), and the Engineering and Technology broad area (36th) - and ranks second in Computer Science at 45th.

# USS Abraham Lincoln will be targeted if it enters missile range: Iranian Navy

TEHRAN, Mar 25 (ANI)

THE Iranian Navy has issued a direct warning to the United States, stating that its aircraft carrier, the USS Abraham Lincoln, is being closely monitored and faces potential strikes if it approaches Iranian territory.

According to a report by the state broadcaster Press TV, Iranian Navy Commander Rear Admiral Shahram Irani warned that the USS Abraham Lincoln is under constant surveillance and will be targeted by the Army

Navy if it enters the range of Iran's missile systems.

The naval threat follows a broader dismissal of American influence by senior military officials in Tehran, who have characterised Washington's recent diplomatic overtures as a facade. Press TV reported that Lieutenant Colonel Ebrahim Zolfaqari, spokesperson for the Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters, stated on Wednesday that the "strategic power" previously flaunted by the US has now "turned into a strategic defeat."

# Navy's Op Urja Suraksha ensures energy supply to India

NEW DELHI, Mar 25 (IANS)

**IN THE** tense waters of the Strait of Hormuz, where global energy flows have come under disruption, a quiet but determined effort is underway by the Indian Navy to keep the country's energy supply uninterrupted.

As Iran's restrictions ripple across international energy markets amid the West Asia conflict, India, through diplomacy, has secured permission from Tehran



to pass its ships through the Strait of Hormuz and has managed to sustain the movement of its ship-

ments. The Indian Navy has been given the responsibility of ensuring safe return of oil tankers. Operation entails positioning of over five advanced warships in the vital maritime chokepoint of the Strait of Hormuz.

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The Indian Navy has been given the responsibility of ensuring

the safe return of the oil tankers. But this is not a conventional escort mission. Naval personnel are not merely accompanying tankers; they are guiding them, step by step, through one of the world's most sensitive maritime passages.

The Indian Navy has launched 'Operation Urja Suraksha'. This operation entails the positioning of over five advanced warships in the vital maritime chokepoint of the Strait of Hormuz.

# Iran dismisses US ceasefire plan

## US plan

- Iran dismantles 3 main nuclear facilities Natanz, Isfahan, and Fordow
- End any enrichment of nuclear material and hand over all enriched material to the IEA
- Suspend its ballistic missile programme.
- Not to pursue N-weapons in future
- Grant the UN nuclear watchdog full access to information inside Iran
- Curb support for proxy groups
- Fully reopen the Strait of Hormuz
- Restrict its military capabilities to self-defence purposes only

## Iran's counterproposals:

- A complete halt to "aggression and assassinations" by the enemy.
- Establishment of concrete mechanisms to ensure that the war is not reimposed.
- Guaranteed and clearly defined payment of war damages and reparations.
- Conclusion of the war across all fronts and for all resistance groups involved throughout the region
- International recognition and guarantees regarding Iran's sovereign right to exercise authority over the Strait of Hormuz.

## Iran issues own counterproposals

DUBAI, Mar 25 (AP)

IRAN on Wednesday dismissed an American plan to pause the war in the Middle East and launched more attacks on Israel and Gulf Arab countries, including an assault that sparked a huge fire at Kuwait International Airport.

Iran's defiance came as Israel launched airstrikes on Tehran and as the United States deployed paratroopers and more Marines to the region.

Iranian state television's English-language broadcaster, Press TV, quoted an anonymous official as saying Iran rejected America's ceasefire proposal. Press TV's report came after Pakistan transmitted the proposal to Iran.

"Iran will end the war when it decides to do so and when its own conditions are met," Press TV quoted the official as saying. The official added Tehran will continue its "heavy blows" across the Mideast.

The official outlined five specific conditions under which Iran would agree to end the war. These include:

A complete halt to "aggression and assassinations" by the enemy.

The establishment of concrete mechanisms to ensure that the war is not reimposed on the Islamic Republic.

## Ceasefire plan surprises Israel

## Iran, Israel continue attacks

## US moving more troops to M-E

## Iran targets Gulf neighbours too



First responders inspect remains of a residential building hit in an overnight strike during the US-Israeli military campaign in Tabriz, East Azerbaijan Province of Iran on Tuesday. (AP/PTI)

Guaranteed and clearly defined payment of war damages and reparations.

The conclusion of the war across all fronts and for all resistance groups involved throughout the region

International recognition and guarantees regarding Iran's sovereign right to exercise authority over the Strait of Hormuz.

Earlier, two officials from

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Pakistan described the 15-point US proposal broadly, saying it addressed sanctions relief, a rollback of Iran's nuclear program, limits on missiles and reopening the Strait of Hormuz, through which a fifth of the

world's oil is shipped.

An Egyptian official involved in the mediation efforts said the proposal also includes restrictions on Iran's support for armed groups. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss details not yet released.

Some of those points were nonstarters in negotiations before the war: Iran has

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## We don't trust nations without ties: Israeli envoy on Pak's attempt to broker talks

NEW DELHI, Mar 25 (IANS)

ISRAEL does not place trust in countries with which it lacks diplomatic relations, Israeli ambassador to India Reuven Azar said, responding to a question on whether Tel Aviv trusts Pakistan in the context of the ongoing Iran conflict and related diplomatic efforts. Azar emphasised that Israel's approach is guided by its own assessment and that of key allies.

"We are not going to engage in trusting a country that doesn't have diplomatic relations with us. What we trust is our judgement and the judgement of the President of the United States," Israeli envoy said.

His remarks come amid reports suggesting that Pakistan has engaged with the US on the West Asia conflict and has offered to host peace talks involving countries linked to the crisis.